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Restraining the nation's police

Death of Maine officer sparks concern over seat-belt systems

By Jacob R. Clark

The death of a Brunswick, Me., police officer in an October auto accident has raised concerns among law enforcement officials about the safety of door-mounted, passive-restraint seat-belt systems that are standard issue in General Motors models manufactured in the past few years, including the 1990 Chevrolet Caprice that is popular with police agencies.

While General Motors maintains that the seat-belt system meets Federally mandated safety guidelines, a Washington, D.C.-based consumer group says at least eight deaths have occurred in instances where the driver or passenger doors of the cars came open in a crash, causing the belts to give way and allowing occupants to be ejected from their vehicles. In August, the Center for Auto Safety petitioned the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to conduct a defect investigation of the automatic lap-shoulder belts. The center charges

that the door-latch seat-belt system, in place in an estimated 5.5 million GM cars, is poorly designed and defective. To date, no action has been taken by NHTSA.

Swerve, Spinout, Crash

Concerns about the seat-belt system arose after Maine State Police determined that the death of Brunswick police officer Jim D. Swint on Oct. 1 probably could have been prevented had the left front door of his 1990 Caprice patrol car remained closed after his car slammed sideways into a utility pole.

Swint was driving his cruiser and had activated his emergency equipment in an attempt to stop a traffic violator, according to Brunswick Police Chief Don Girardin. Swint swerved to avoid hitting another driver pulling out of a parking lot who failed to yield to the cruiser. The officer lost control of the vehicle, which traveled sideways off the road, and struck a utility pole at the rear of the driver's door, causing that

section of the vehicle to cave in. The impact of the crash — estimated by State Police to have occurred at a skidding speed of between 33 and 35 miles per hour — caused the left front door striker and the striker plate to be ripped from the door pillar, which stayed attached to the latch. The door popped open and Swint, freed from the door-mounted seat belt, was partially ejected from the vehicle, striking his head on the pavement. The 29-year-old, three-year veteran of the department died of massive head injuries.

Other Cruisers Taken Off-Line

The day after the accident, Girardin decided to install an additional lap belt in the department's two remaining Caprices, which have since been pulled from patrol duties. While cautioning that he "does not want to take on General Motors," Girardin is adamant that if the system had not been defective, Swint would be alive today.

"I cannot, for the life of me, see any

way possible that that seatbelt is adequate, whether it's for emergency operations or whether it's owned by the public. Once that door comes open, no matter which way it comes open — whether it rips the striker plate off, whether the car rolls over and the door comes wedged open — the operator or the occupant in the passenger seat virtually has no protection. He's going to be thrown out of that car because once the door is open, since the locking and the latching mechanism is hooked onto the door, there is nothing left there to hold that operator into that seat," Girardin told LEN.

No Feedback from Carmaker

GM sent corporate technicians to Brunswick to examine Swint's cruiser, but Girardin, who said he requested a report of their findings, said the company replied that "no such report had been prepared and none is anticipated."

After Swint's death, the Maine State Police conducted an in-depth investi-

gation and testing of the 128 1990 Chevrolet Caprices in its own 400-vehicle fleet. Their findings pointed to other other deficiencies inherent in the seat-belt system. In a teletype sent to all Maine law enforcement agencies on Nov. 1, the State Police noted: "The system is inadequate for emergency response driving conditions, as the system fails to adequately keep an operator or front-seat passenger from sliding across [the] seat during emergency response operation in which turning movements are required. The system also fails to keep the operator or front-seat passenger on the seat when striking bumps during emergency operation. The net result of these inadequacies is that the operator utilizes the steering wheel as a counterbalance to maintain his/her position on the seat, thereby losing some of the intended function of the steering wheel during emergency operation."

State Police officials decided on
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Disarming thoughts:

Milwaukee eyes new anti-gun measures

Milwaukee Mayor John O. Norquist is expected to sign a city ordinance that would make it illegal for persons to arm themselves with a concealed and dangerous weapon and would also ban the carrying of any firearm — either concealed or unconcealed — within the city limits unless the firearm is both unloaded and enclosed within a carrying case.

The expected action was prompted by several well-publicized shooting incidents that have occurred in the city, including some that took place near public schools. The Wisconsin Legislature is scheduled to meet in a special session in January to consider more stringent anti-crime measures. Norquist had been lobbying intensely for such a session in recent weeks.

The ordinance, passed by City Council on Nov. 27 in a unanimous 16-0 vote, calls for fines of \$500 to \$1,000 and jail terms of eight to 20 days upon conviction. If signed by Norquist, it

would take effect on Dec. 15.

The spate of shooting incidents in the city included a situation in which a bus carrying 11 school children from an elementary school drove into a shootout between two people on Oct. 30. No one was injured but the incident angered city officials, including Police Chief Philip Arreola, who called it "outrageous and outlandish." Police arrested one suspect and were seeking another.

Prior to the school bus incident, a man was wounded Oct. 23 while standing in a playground, just minutes before the end of the school day. Two days later, a 15-year-old boy was shot in the abdomen outside a school, where more than 100 people were attending parent-teacher conferences. A loaded, sawed-off shotgun was found in a high school student's locker, and later the same day, the Milwaukee School Board approved the expulsion of a student accused of pulling a handgun on another

student at school on Sept. 5.

School officials met with Arreola in early November to discuss increased security measures in and around the city's schools. Police are now being ordered to emphasize patrols near schools and along routes pupils use to and from school. Public Schools Superintendent Robert S. Peterkin called for the designation of "gun-free school zones," increased dialogue

between the Department of School Safety and police district commanders, and also proposed that the school district pay to increase the numbers of uniformed officers at school events.

"Obviously, we need to enhance the kind of attention that we pay to the schools," Arreola said. And Peterkin noted that his requests for increased police patrols around schools were aimed at shoring up an "already

cooperative relationship."

"What I wanted to ask for was, at least during this period when we seem to be heavily impacted, if we could even heighten the visibility of officers in and around schools," Peterkin told the Milwaukee Sentinel. "They do that now — they do drive by and patrol schools for us. I'm just asking for more active participation immediately." He

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Milwaukeeans may find insurance rates rising along with crime rates

Increases in property thefts and robberies in the Milwaukee area may force insurance companies to raise premium rates for Milwaukee residents, the head of a state insurance trade association warned recently.

Eric Englund, president of the Wisconsin Insurance Alliance, said that FBI statistics indicate "abnormally high growth" in Milwaukee's theft rate, the cost of which may be passed along to Milwaukee customers, whose property casualty rates are among the lowest in the nation.

The FBI reported that robberies in Milwaukee, the state's largest city, increased by 37.5 percent in the first six months of 1990, while other U.S. cities of comparable size experienced robbery increases averaging 14 percent. Auto thefts in the area are registering a 27.4-percent increase so far this year.

"The problem is that property crimes for Wisconsin as a whole

went up significantly less than they did in Milwaukee — about 5 percent compared to the double-digit figures we're seeing in Milwaukee," Englund said in an interview with the Milwaukee Sentinel. "Fairness dictates that we do the best we can to assess the costs of insurance where they are occurring, which unfortunately in this case happens to be Milwaukee."

Compared to residents of other Wisconsin cities, Milwaukeeans are already paying a larger percentage of their comprehensive insurance premiums toward auto theft protection, Englund noted. Insurance on a 1988 Ford registered to a Milwaukee resident costs about \$181 every six months, with about 45 percent to 50 percent of the premium used to cover theft loss. In contrast, insuring the same car in Appleton, the state's seventh-largest city, would cost about \$32 every six months, with \$3 pegged for auto-theft coverage.

"What we were are looking at is a

very significant differential," said Englund in an interview with LEN.

Insurers could decide to raise rates, especially in view of the fact that 57 percent of the vehicle thefts reported to police occurred in Milwaukee — "even though less than 20 percent of the [state's] population resides there," Englund added.

On the upside, the Milwaukee Police Department has a better-than-average rate of recovering stolen vehicles, noted Englund. But car owners can often prevent thefts by being less careless, he added.

"In essence, our observation is it's up to the individual consumer to become more active in this arena. Something like 20 percent of the cars stolen have their keys in them. Many cars are stolen or vandalized because people leave expensive items visible in the car. Cars that are parked in well-lit areas or locked garages are less likely to be stolen," said Englund.

What They Are Saying:

"I don't like the fact that it's our tax dollars and it's going to criticize us. Some [officers] think it's just another unwarranted shot at people who have a very tough job."

— Ronald Newman, president of the San Diego Police Officers Association, reacting to a series of bus-stop artworks, funded in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, which criticize police deadly-force policies. (5:4)

Around the Nation

Northeast

MARYLAND — A 10-cell ward for inmates with AIDS at the state penitentiary in Jessup has been closed after the inmates, who said they felt excluded from prison programs, were transferred to other state prisons.

MASSACHUSETTS — Boston police have credited residents of the Franklin Field housing complex with providing information that led to the arrest of eight youths in the beating, robbery, rape and fatal stabbing of Kimberley Harbour, 26, on Oct. 31. The so-called "wilding" attack was compared to the 1989 rape and beating of a female jogger in New York's Central Park.

NEW JERSEY — Guttenberg Police Chief Charles Lind is requesting better screening for volunteer firefighters in the town, after four firemen were charged with arson earlier this month.

NEW YORK — Amid reports that bias-related crimes against Asian-Americans are rising in New York City, Police Commissioner Lee P. Brown has launched a recruitment drive to bring more Asian officers into the Police Department. Currently there are 179 Asian-American officers on the force, or 0.7 percent of the total sworn strength. There are no Asian-Americans holding the rank of captain or above. Asian-Americans make up about 8.5 percent of the city's population.

A man who billed himself as "the Pope of Pot" was arrested by New York City police Nov. 14 on charges that he ran a marijuana delivery service using a toll-free number and bicycle messengers. Michael Cesar, 48, allegedly ran the delivery service from his comic-book shop in Greenwich Village. When a customer called the number 1-800-WANT-POT, a messenger would be sent off with an eighth-ounce pouch of pot, which sold for \$50. Police said the operation netted about \$40,000 a day.

PENNSYLVANIA — A joint state-local investigation has broken up a \$1.35-million auto-theft ring that had operated in Butler County for six months. Officials said warrants were issued for 34 suspects.

Advice about child-abuse prevention will be enclosed with report cards in 11 western Pennsylvania school districts, officials say. The action is being taken because poor grades often cause students to be beaten or verbally abused.

RHODE ISLAND — President Vartan Gregorian of Brown University has pledged to make sexual assault explicitly punishable under the school's disciplinary code, after protesters posted lists of reputed rapists on campus bathroom walls. University trustees must approve the disciplinary measure.

Southeast

ALABAMA — Birmingham police "stung" about 200 wanted fugitives by

making them think they had won tickets to a popular football game between the University of Alabama and Auburn University. Police Chief Arthur Deutsh said the fugitives, who were wanted for crimes ranging from robbery to drug dealing, were arrested when they attended a "winners' party" held Nov. 28 at the Birmingham-Jefferson Civic Center by the phony cable television station WGGY — which stands for "We're Gonna Get You."

The Guardian Angels crime-prevention group is discussing with Birmingham officials the possibility of starting a chapter in the state's largest city. The City Council, concerned with rising juvenile crime, requested the meeting with Guardian Angels leaders.

FLORIDA — Officials say 125,000 state prison inmates were furloughed in 1989, an increase of 73 percent from the previous year. The officials cited a change in the way furloughs are counted and increased inmate turnover at work-release centers for the sharp overall rise.

LOUISIANA — An unidentified Eunice police officer was suspended without pay for 90 days earlier this month after being charged with raping a 15-year-old girl. The officer, who is being held in lieu of \$75,000 bail, denies the accusation.

MISSISSIPPI — Four children, age 2 to 5, were stabbed to death at their home in Greenwood Nov. 2 by their uncle, in an episode that neighbors said was provoked by the refusal of the assailant's sister to give him money for drugs. Curtis Jackson, 26, reportedly broke through the door of his mother's home and stabbed seven people, including his sister and six children, before fleeing in a car his mother loaned him.

VIRGINIA — Two Alexandria sheriff's deputies were arrested in the District of Columbia Nov. 5 and charged with assaulting and robbing two prostitutes with whom they allegedly had sex. Anthony Baker, 35, and Leonard Hall, 27, both of whom are detention officers in the Alexandria jail, were suspended without pay following the arrests.

Midwest

ILLINOIS — Cook County sheriff's deputy John Frezados, 45, was arrested Nov. 2 and charged with accepting a \$4,000 bribe from a defendant in exchange for agreeing to take care of pending narcotics cases. A spokesman for Sheriff James O'Grady said Frezados had been under investigation for two years for making similar offers to other defendants. Following the arrest, Frezados resigned after learning that O'Grady planned to fire him.

The state's first experimental "boot-camp" prison for first-time, non-violent offenders was formally dedicated Nov. 5 by Gov. James Thompson. The Dixon Springs Impact Incarceration Program, which actually opened on Oct. 15, is expected to serve an estimated 750 felons a year, including some women.

INDIANA — Four Jamaicans, who officials say put "voodoo spells" on

two Marion County sheriff's deputies and a prosecutor, have been charged with 27 felony drug counts involving cocaine and heroin.

MICHIGAN — The state Senate has approved and sent on to the House a bill that would prevent minors who use false identification to buy bar drinks from suing if they're subsequently hurt in an alcohol-related accident. The bill would restore a law struck down by a state court for technical flaws.

OHIO — Supervisory officers in the East Cleveland Police Department will receive 3-percent pay raises under a new two-year contract reached between the city and the local Fraternal Order of Police. The raises are retroactive to Jan. 1, 1990.

The five members of the recently established Dayton Citizens Appeal Board, which will hear citizens' complaints of alleged police misconduct, began the training process that will enable them to begin operations by the end of this month. The board was created in the wake of several highly publicized charges of police brutality during the summer.

WEST VIRGINIA — An investigation of police brutality charges against Moundsville police has been turned over to the FBI, after Marshall County officials said the allegations, which involve possible civil rights violations, go beyond the county prosecutor's jurisdiction.

Plains States

IOWA — The FBI and local police have broken up an international drug-smuggling ring said to have operated out of a Davenport meat market. Five people have been arrested and eight others are being sought around the country. According to court records, an undercover agent was told to go to the meat market and ask for a chicken, which was understood to mean an order for a pound of marijuana. An ounce of cocaine could be ordered by asking for a flour tortilla. FBI agents said the drugs were shipped from Mexico and stored in a warehouse in Rock Island, Ill.

MONTANA — The Billings Police Department will have a new chief as of Jan. 7, with the appointment of Oran Peck, currently deputy chief in Salt Lake City. Billings City Administrator Alan Tandy said Peck was chosen from a field of 145 applicants on the basis of his "enthusiasm, creativity, ability to relate to police officers and overall sincerity, as well as his technical qualifications." Peck succeeds Gene Kiser, who retired in September after 13 years as chief.

NEBRASKA — The Omaha School Board is considering a plan to rotate metal detectors among schools to stop students from bringing weapons to class. The proposed move was sparked by concerns over gang rivalries.

NORTH DAKOTA — The election for Bowman County sheriff has been subjected to a recount after incumbent Sheriff Rodger Bangs lost to his predecessor, Morrell McGee, by a

margin of 831-808. The 70-year-old McGee, who was sheriff for 26 years before retiring in 1987, ran a write-in campaign.

SOUTH DAKOTA — Aberdeen police have warned residents to take down outdoor Christmas decorations at night to prevent vandalism. Residents say that what's needed are more police officers and better enforcement of a youth curfew.

Southwest

OKLAHOMA — Tulsa police are reportedly handling an average of 136 fewer domestic-dispute calls per month this year than they did in 1989, but officials of the local Domestic Violence Intervention Service say they are seeing about 17 percent more victims this year than last. Bobbie Henderson, the director of administrative services for DVIS, said not all women seeking help from her agency call the police, which could account for the discrepancy. Police statistics indicate that nearly half of the reports of domestic violence have involved drug or alcohol abuse.

Weatherford police and the State Bureau of Investigation are seeking two men and a woman who reportedly handcuffed police officer Randy Goucher to a chair in his home and played three rounds of Russian roulette with him, all the while videotaping the attack. Goucher was not hurt.

The Oklahoma City Council has approved the expenditure of \$656,348 for a new police helicopter to replace a similar craft lost Oct. 1 when the pilot hit an electrical line and crashed.

Tulsa County correctional officials have ordered 1,500 pairs of boxer shorts for jail inmates, ending a policy of having visitors bring prisoners a fresh pair. The policy change was made after a key was smuggled in, allowing two inmates to escape.

TEXAS — Some Nueces County juvenile offenders charged with first-time misdemeanors may be judged by a jury of their peers — other teen-agers — under a program due to be implemented next year. A district judge would still preside over the cases.

UTAH — Residents of Alpine are circulating a referendum petition calling on Mayor Elaine Barnes and the City Council to explain why Police Chief Brent Leseberg was fired. Barnes, who said the city needed a change, has imposed a gag order on municipal workers regarding the dismissal.

Far West

CALIFORNIA — Oakland police say it is unlikely that 228 rape cases reopened in September will be prosecuted because the alleged victims cannot be found or won't cooperate

The cases were originally closed by police who wrongly concluded that they were unfounded. [See LEN, Oct. 15, 1990.]

Three female sheriff's deputies in Santa Clara County have been awarded more than \$2.7 million in damages after a Federal jury agreed with their contention that they underwent four years of sexual harassment on the job. The deputies charged that a male deputy who was their training officer made sexual advances toward them and agreed to provide favorable work reviews in exchange for sexual favors. The judgment is said to be the largest monetary award ever granted in a sexual discrimination suit against the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Department.

Tipsters who provide information leading to the arrest and conviction of a designated criminal will receive rewards under a new plan worked out between San Francisco police and local business leaders. The police will designate the crime for which they need tips, and businesses will pay the rewards.

Two Long Beach police officers who face charges in an alleged assault on a civil rights activist have been allowed to retire on stress-disability pensions that will pay them 50 percent of their current salaries for life. Officers Mark Dickey, 29, and Mark Ramsey, 28, are scheduled to go to trial Jan. 17 for the alleged attack on Don Jackson, a Hawthorne, Calif., police sergeant who was conducting a sting to expose police brutality. Doctors say the two officers suffered psychological problems as a result of the January 1989 incident. [See LEN, Feb. 15, 1989.]

HAWAII — Officials say a top-secret operation using aerial surveillance techniques and special weed sprayers has wiped out 85 percent of the state's summer marijuana crop. The effort reportedly destroyed 785,000 plants worth an estimated \$1.1 billion.

NEVADA — The state's prison population is expected to top 12,000 by the year 2000, adding to existing prison crowding, according to a Governor's commission on corrections. The commission urged the state to consider using electronically monitored house arrest as an alternative to imprisonment.

OREGON — Sinsemilla Tips, a 10-year-old, Corvallis-based magazine for marijuana growers, went out of business earlier this month. The quarterly's publisher, Tom Alexander, said "drug hysteria and paranoia" in the United States contributed to circulation declines that forced him to shut down operations.

WASHINGTON — Judi Kosterman, the vice president of the state Substance Abuse Coalition, has been named as the state's new drug czar. She replaces Paul Dziedzic, who resigned to take a teaching post at Seattle University.

Gov. Booth Gardner has endorsed a plan designed to combat hate crimes against minorities and gays. The proposal, which was approved by the House but died in a Senate committee during the last legislative session, would make it illegal to maliciously harass or intimidate people because of their race, ethnicity or sexual orientation, and would require police agencies to report hate crimes to the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs.

Looking for a few good (blacks) (whites) (gays)

Denver axes tutoring for minority applicants

While no final decision has been made, it appears unlikely that the Denver Civil Service Commission will again offer a controversial tutoring session tailored to minority police applicants — part of a six-month affirmative action effort by the city — because the class failed to yield “significant” improvements in test scores, the commission’s executive director told LEN recently.

The session, conducted on an experimental basis by Jackson, Miss.-based test consultants Morris & McDaniel, was held shortly before a police entrance exam offered on July 21. It drew fire when it was revealed that all 96 black applicants who passed the exam were accepted for further testing, while only 89 of 636 whites were accepted and 15 of 160 Hispanics were accepted.

On Nov. 2, Councilman Ted Hackworth blasted the commission for using the tutoring program, saying Civil Service officials compromised the quality of police officer applicants so the city could meet minority hiring quotas. “I’m not very satisfied with what the commission has done as far as its recruiting effort,” Hackworth said in a Denver Post interview. “I’m totally upset that they used the tutoring program.” Hackworth, who could not be reached by LEN for further comment, said he would ask Jane Woodhouse, one of the city’s five civil-service commissioners to step down at year’s end.

Hackworth’s comments came as civil service officials announced that, for the first time, blacks outnumbered other ethnic groups in the new Denver police class, even though black applicants failed hiring tests at a higher rate than whites or Hispanics. The 40-member class comprises 18 blacks, 16 whites and 6 Hispanics. The commission said that 22 percent of 89 white applicants failed the police hiring tests, while 47 percent of the 96 black candidates did not pass. Thirteen percent of the 15 Hispanic applicants who took the tests also failed. The figures were released as part of a final report on the city’s six-month police recruiting and hiring drive.

Non-minority applicants criticized the commission for “pro-

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Dallas urged to end anti-gay hiring bias

Dallas city officials are still reviewing recommendations made by a predominantly black police organization to increase minority hiring in the Dallas Police Department, as well as proposals calling for an end to discriminatory hiring practices allegedly used by police against gay and lesbian applicants. In the meantime, a police official said, the department is taking steps to institute its own program to increase minority hiring, including the formation of a recruiting unit that would exclusively target minority candidates.

On Nov. 2, the Mayor’s Advisory Committee on Crime announced its support for an end to alleged discriminatory hiring practices against gay and lesbian police applicants. The committee, which was formed in 1987 to determine the effectiveness of affirmative action programs, also called for the agency to adopt recommendations submitted in March by the Texas Peace Officers Association that would increase minority representation on the 2,472-officer force.

“We have not received any of the recommendations,” said Assistant Police Chief R.T. Diaz, who said the committee’s support of the proposals is symbolic and carries no official mandate. He added that any such changes would have to be ordered by the city manager and City Council.

Diaz told LEN that he could not comment on the issues concerning gays and lesbians because the department was named as a defendant in a suit brought by the Dallas Gay Alliance on behalf of a lesbian who contends she was denied a police job because of her sexual orientation. The advisory committee called for the department to eliminate from job applications and psychological tests any questions that refer to sexual orientation. It also suggested the department re-evaluate its rules on the sexual conduct of officers.

But Diaz said that the department is taking steps to increase minority hiring and attract more minority applicants to police jobs. One way to do this, he said, would be through the formation of a specialized recruiting unit, composed of a “minority sergeant and three minority recruiters,” that would be operating in the Dallas-Fort

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Judge rejects reverse-bias claim by white officers

A Montgomery County Common Pleas Court judge on Nov. 1 denied a request by a Dayton, Ohio, police union to block the expiration of a promotion eligibility list because the city denied sergeant promotions to two white police officers because of their race.

Judge Richard S. Dodge overruled the request by Fraternal Order of Police Lodge No. 44 because city officials said the denials of promotions to patrolmen Glenn Miller and Peter Bogumill were based on financial, not racial reasons. “Plaintiffs’ mere allegations to the contrary are insufficient to overcome such evidence,” said the judge’s decision.

The 500-member union had sought a restraining order and injunction prohibiting the City of Dayton Civil Service Board from allowing the promotional list to sergeant to expire, and to order promotions to the two patrolmen, who had passed the required test. The pair held the top spots on a promotion eligibility list that expired Nov. 1.

The union’s complaint alleged that two sergeant’s positions had or would open by Nov. 1, and that the city had promoted 25 officers — eight of them black males — to sergeant’s positions last December. The 25 positions, the union contended, “were created and filled for the purpose of better achieving racial balance in the supervisor ranks of the Dayton Police Department” and that the city had refused to promote Bogumill and Miller because they were white. The union charged that such action violated city and state Civil Service rules.

The union sought promotions for Bogumill and Miller, as well as damages for loss of wages and pension benefits caused by the city’s failure to promote the men.

Dodge said the plaintiffs failed to prove they were entitled to the relief sought and that irreparable harm would result — elements required under Ohio statutes in order for a preliminary injunction to be granted. While Dodge noted that Miller and Bogumill would “suffer a certain degree of harm upon expiration

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Calif. gun purchase abetted by rules on mental-health data

A California Department of Justice official said recently that changes in state laws on the disclosure of information about mentally ill persons may help curtail their ability to obtain firearms, and prevent further tragedies like the Sept. 27 incident in which a deranged Iranian gunman held 33 hostages in a Berkeley hotel bar, killing one of them before he himself was shot to death by police.

Robert Drake, bureau chief of the DoJ’s Division of Law Enforcement, said in a LEN interview that the statutory changes, which will give Justice Department officials access to previously restricted information on the mental histories of persons seeking to purchase firearms, are to go into effect on Jan. 1 — the same day that a 15-day waiting period on all gun purchases in the state becomes law.

Drake was responding to a Nov. 17 report by The Associated Press that said an El Cerrito, Calif., gun dealer reluctantly sold a 9mm. Ruger pistol to Iranian-born Mehrdad Dashti, a former mental patient, who staged the Berkeley hostage incident. Dashti killed a 22-year-old University of California student and nine others were wounded during the ordeal, which ended when he was shot by police who stormed Henry’s Public House and Grille.

The gun dealer, Bob Weaver, told the AP that he knew Dashti “was loopy.” We told the Justice Department about him, but they said there was nothing they could do about it.” Permits to purchase handguns are denied to con-

victed felons or persons certified insane by a court.

Dashti did not fit into those categories. He reportedly had minor brushes with the law in Berkeley, and had been a patient at the Berkeley Mental Health Clinic. While Alameda County authorities had diagnosed him as a paranoid schizophrenic, it was still legal for him to buy handguns, because a DoJ background check turned up nothing about his past in official records.

Drake confirmed that Weaver had called DoJ and told them of his suspicions about Dashti’s mental state. “We ran a criminal check on him. The man had no record. So we had nothing,” said Drake. “We even went so far as to call [the California Department] of Mental Health. Mental Health came back to us and said they had no record of this guy.”

DoJ officials called Weaver and told them they could find nothing to prevent the sale of the weapon to Dashti. Weaver replied that two of Dashti’s friends came to the shop to plead with him not to sell the gun. “What we said was that he had to give us more information — the name of a doctor or someone we could talk to. We did not have the authority to deny [the sale],” Drake said.

DoJ officials finally told Weaver that he didn’t have to sell the gun to Dashti. But Weaver said he had to because he could be sued for discrimination. “I didn’t want to get sued... I could get sued for prejudice, for discrimination against the man I didn’t sell

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Minority voices sound off:

Serial rapist stirs Okla. City

Oklahoma City Police Chief David McBride met Nov. 28 with a group of the city’s minority community leaders to allay concerns that the police were not aggressively pursuing an investigation of a suspected serial rapist whose victims predominantly have been black women living alone.

Some minority residents of Oklahoma City were angered that the police did not release information regarding the suspected serial rapist, who was still at large at press time, until the man had been linked to as many as 10 rapes in a seven-month period. Police denied the charge and pointed out that one of the ski-masked suspect’s earliest victims was a white woman.

Police also pointed out that early disclosure of the case may have caused the rapist to change his m.o., thereby further hampering the investigation. Capt. Ted Carlton, of the department’s Sex Crimes Unit, said the decision not to disclose information about the investigation was a “judgment call” in which investigators had to decide whether to alarm the public — and also the suspect — by making a public disclosure or quietly continue the investigation in the hope of apprehending the perpetrator.

“Do we save victims in the short run by immediately announcing it as soon as we think we’ve established a pattern — with the result being that the suspect alters his pattern and perhaps his m.o. — or do we give up 40 or 50 other victims later down the line when we wait for him to re-establish another pattern and he becomes apprehensible? That’s what we were weighing,” said Carlton.

The Police Department’s efforts are

also hampered by a lack of manpower, Carlton noted. Only eight criminal investigators are available to probe the 500 to 600 rapes that occur in the city each year, he said.

Police investigators decided that the best long-term protection for Oklahoma City residents “was to attempt to make an apprehension by predicting where he was going to hit,” said Carlton. The suspect came close to being caught, but police missed him by a matter of minutes, he added.

“We were concerned that [the investigation] did not get into the news until a white person was raped,” said Roosevelt Milton, president of the Oklahoma City branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). “Based upon our latest meeting with the Chief, that

was not the case, so that rules out any kind of discriminatory activity... We feel that Chief McBride and his staff are doing the best they can to try to bring this person to justice.”

The Police Department’s handling of the case first came under fire when Clara Luper, director of the NAACP’s youth programs, publicly criticized the department for foot-dragging after police officials revealed on Nov. 2 that a serial rapist might be on the loose in northwest Oklahoma City.

“I was concerned that in my city, where I pay my taxes, where the taxes have been increased in order that we could have a better-equipped Police Department, that there were 10 rapes before the public was notified,” said Luper. “I believe that if it had been 10

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Columbus limits arms, but gun crimes still rise as criminals change their shopping habits

A Columbus, Ohio, police official says that crimes committed with guns are on the rise despite a year-old city ordinance that makes it harder to purchase firearms and bans outright the sale and possession of assault-style weapons. To evade the law, the official said, criminals are simply purchasing firearms on the black market or outside city limits, where few restrictions on gun sales exist.

The ordinance, introduced by City Councilman John P. Kennedy, has been in effect since Nov. 1, 1989. It bans the sale and possession of assault weapons,

except those registered within a specified time frame. The city registered 158 assault weapons owned by 119 people, the Columbus Dispatch reported recently.

More importantly, the law requires anyone purchasing a handgun, shotgun or rifle in the city to apply for a permit and wait seven days. Purchasers must also pay a \$5 fee, put their fingerprints on record, and submit to a background check. Convicted felons and persons with violent misdemeanors on their criminal records are not issued permits.

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Belated honors

It's never too late to honor police officers slain in the line of duty, and that's exactly what the Burlington, Vt., Police Department plans to do next year during the observance of the agency's 125th anniversary, even though the officer in question — the only Burlington police officer ever shot to death in the line of duty — died nearly a century ago.

There are few, if any, local residents who remember the events leading up to the death of James McGrath, who was 39 years old when he was shot down by an Army deserter in 1904. Time had largely erased his memory from civic consciousness, but Lieut. James Scott, who was reviewing old newspapers in an effort to reconstruct the Police Department's history, unearthed the long-forgotten story of McGrath's demise.

"We certainly want to highlight this because [McGrath] was the only police officer shot to death in the line of duty in the history of the Burlington Police Department," said Scott.

The Burlington Patrolmen's Association plans to purchase a plaque and place it on a "wall of honor" that will be part of police headquarters, Scott told LEN.

"It's certainly something that we shouldn't have forgotten for 85 years," said Scott. "It only happened once and it's too bad this man was forgotten. Nothing ever was named after him, even though at the time they had a large city funeral. They made a large casket piece out of his badge — and then he was forgotten. I've been here 31 years and I was surprised to hear about it."

McGrath was gunned down on May 12, 1904, while walking a beat near a lumberyard on Lake Champlain. At about seven o'clock that evening, he apparently crossed paths with Benjamin

No small potatoes: Two bosses are canned in Idaho SP shakeup

Revelations that Idaho State Police troopers routinely engaged in a pattern of selective enforcement, and were ordered not to issue traffic citations to legislators, state administrators and other police officers, resulted in a shakeup early this month that included the ousters of the state's two highest-ranking law enforcement officials.

On Nov. 8, Gov. Cecil Andrus requested and received the resignation of state Law Enforcement Director Mack Richardson, a long-time Secret Service agent appointed to the post by Andrus in 1986. On the same day, Andrus asked State Police Supt. Rich Humpherys, a 32-year veteran of the State Police, to leave his post earlier than his planned Jan. 1 retirement date. Deputy Director of Law Enforcement Richard Cade was appointed by Andrus to serve as acting director until Richardson's successor is named. Humpherys will stay on the job until a replacement is chosen.

"Several troopers alleged that there was an unwritten policy of tolerance. In other words, they were supposed to give the benefit of the doubt to state legislators. As the story unraveled, it became clear that the policy was really centered on other law enforcement officers," said Marc Johnson, a spokesman for Andrus.

The moves by the Governor came after the Idaho Statesman newspaper revealed on Nov. 4 that Richardson was responsible for ordering a selective enforcement policy that directed state troopers not to issue citations to legislators, state officials and other police officers.

Richardson, who called himself a "victim of the system," said that he did little more than "go along with what had been done" under previous administrations. "I'm telling you, I've never, ever implied that there should be immunity. Absolutely not," he told reporters.

Andrus said the changes were necessary to restore "confidence and credibility" to Idaho's premier law enforcement organization. "It has become increasingly clear over the last four days that management problems exist in the department and in the State Police," the Governor said. "I will not tolerate, nor with the people of Idaho tolerate, any policy of special treatment of anyone. My review of the facts in this regard leave no doubt that instructions were issued by the Director of the department to that effect. The State Police officers on the highways have no doubt done what they were instructed to do."

Andrus added that the "unfortunate incident should in no way reflect on the individual members of the Idaho State Police. There were not responsible."

After receiving "conflicting views" about the policy from Richardson and Humpherys, Andrus traveled to State Police barracks in Lewiston and Idaho Falls on Nov. 7 — the day after his reelection to a fourth term as Governor — to hear for himself about the selective enforcement policy, Johnson told LEN. He met for several hours with state troopers with no supervisors present. "They looked me right in the eye and said, yes, those [special treatment] instructions were given, and they came directly from the Director," said Andrus.

The Governor also ordered several reforms to ensure that a similar situation does not recur, including an official ban of selective enforcement and written instructions that troopers are to treat all citizens the same, regardless of their political or economic clout. He also ordered an end to legislative "immunity" against traffic citations that was granted to state lawmakers during the three-month legislative session. The policy apparently resulted from a literal reading of a century-old state law that barred the arrest of legislators, "except for treason, felony or breach of the peace," during the session. Andrus also gave troopers reassurances that he would not tolerate retaliation against those who issue citations to influential citizens.

Richardson's resignation came a few

days after troopers in the State Police's six jurisdictions cast an overwhelming vote of "no confidence" against the Director. Richardson, 56, had a 21-year career with the Secret Service and was a patrol officer with the Washington State Police.

Humpherys, 57, said he wasn't pressed to resign and had already informed Andrus of his impending retirement. When he was asked why he didn't alert Andrus to the selective enforcement policy, Humpherys said, "It just wasn't time for me to go to the Governor." He did not elaborate.

State Police officials and troopers said they were relieved by the Governor's actions and the institution of reforms, and heartened by an outpouring of public support they have received in the wake of the scandal. Cpl. Elias Lelja, the first trooper to publicly condemn the policy, said troopers will no longer have to suffer from the "guilty feelings" they felt after giving breaks to certain traffic offenders.

Another officer said he stopped two off-duty police officers — without the "usual knot in my stomach."

"I treated them as normal citizens, and I felt a lot better about it. I feel we can go out there and provide an unbiased service to the public. Before, I didn't feel I could do that," Cpl. Dan Tiller told the Statesman.

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Williams, a deserter from one of several Army outposts in the area at the time. They had a conversation, said Scott, during which McGrath probably learned of Williams' AWOL status. When McGrath tried to apprehend the soldier and take him to police headquarters, Williams shot the unarmed officer three times in the chest with a .38-caliber handgun.

The newspaper accounts of the officer's death spurred Scott to learn more about the incident. He spent many hours at the local library, where his wife is a librarian, to piece together McGrath's story. He located McGrath's home and a few of his descendants, some of whom still live in the area, but most of whom "knew nothing or very little about" the officer. Scott also was able to recover a photograph of McGrath.

Williams' trial, as covered by the local press, was a sensational event and lasted "off and on for over a year," said Scott. During that time, Williams escaped from custody but was reapprehended about 30 miles away.

Williams was convicted and sentenced to a state prison. He was later transferred to an insane asylum, underwent a frontal lobotomy, and remained there until his death, about 48 years later. His corpse was used for medical experiments before it was placed in an unmarked grave in a potter's field.

Scott visited the local cemetery that served as Officer McGrath's final resting place, an experience he termed "really strange because it was an Irish cemetery, and most of the people who were in law enforcement and politics at the time were Irish, and they all were buried within 50 yards from each other — all of the politicians, the police, the

Chief of Police at the time, the pallbearers. Everybody's there in that same cemetery."

Scott also tried to locate the site of Williams' grave, and in a macabre twist, he found that the potter's field was located directly across the street from his own home.

McGrath's death left his young son an orphan "and that young 10- or 12-year-old kid standing at the gravesite later grew up to be the [Chittenden County] sheriff," Scott discovered.

Despite the passage of time, Scott said he felt sympathy for the officer and his family. McGrath's widow ran into financial difficulties and had to give up their home, which Scott also located. "I saw the impact that that dastardly act had had on a lot of lives. It's a shame that that was forgotten and he wasn't remembered," he said.

Monterey mystery

No one can say for sure why Collier Vale, a popular and highly successful Monterey, Calif., prosecutor, shot himself to death last month. Vale left no note, his car was packed for a planned trip to Yosemite National Park the next day, and he had even set his automatic coffeemaker for early the next morning.

But Vale's friends and colleagues suspect he was driven to suicide out of feelings of blame and failure brought on by the death of a confidential informant in one of his murder investigations — even though he knew he was

not to blame for the events that led to the death of Sonjii Yvette Johnson, who was shot to death just two weeks after supplying information about a drug-related murder. What Vale's associates do know is that the 39-year-old prosecutor felt haunted by Johnson's death, and apparently could never get it out of his mind.

"It must have been an impulsive act," said Greg Lehman, a tennis instructor who was one of Vale's best friends. "The case was always roaming around in his brain and he probably got to the point that night where he was in a deep morass... like he was in this maze and he couldn't see any way out."

Vale had enjoyed a meteoric 10-year career with the Monterey District Attorney's office and had successfully prosecuted several high-profile cases. But friends and colleagues told the Los Angeles Times that a meeting last year with Johnson, who supplied Vale with information about a drug-related murder, began the downward slide leading to Vale's professional unraveling, and ultimately to his death.

Johnson, 23, first contacted Seaside police with information the murder. They interviewed her and Vale was brought in to talk to her and prepare the prosecution's case. Two days later, Vale and a Seaside police officer decided to check in with Johnson. When Vale took the phone to speak to the woman, he found that it was not Sonjii Yvette Johnson, but Sognia Petite Johnson. Both similarly named women lived in the same small town, and while the spellings were different, both first names were pronounced "Sonya." Both had had recent contact with the police.

Vale said enough about the case to

Sognia Johnson for her to figure out that Sonjii Johnson was an informant. Court records say she then spread the word on the street that "the other Sonya was a snitch" in order to protect herself from vengeful drug dealers.

Two weeks later, in August 1989, Sonjii Yvette Johnson was shot to death in the driveway of her parents' home. Vale did not learn of the fatal mix-up until six months later, and knew he was not at fault. He had offered to place her in a witness protection program. But the local press zeroed in on Vale to blame him for the death, and the story received national play on the tabloid TV news program, "A Current Affair." Sonjii Johnson's family filed a wrongful death suit against the county and the Seaside Police Department, and Vale knew that he would face depositions and possibly, an embarrassing, highly publicized trial.

"Collier saw this whole thing as a humiliation and a failure," said his girlfriend, Melinda Young. "He just couldn't let it go."

Vale did not get a chance to prosecute Sonjii Johnson's killer, who recently pleaded guilty — he was disqualified because of his own involvement in the case. But his name kept coming up in whispered conversations, and he was disturbed by allegations that his own carelessness may have led to the woman's death.

"Collier's case was a prosecutor's nightmare," said Ann Hill, a deputy district attorney and a colleague of Vale's. "What makes it so frightening is something like this could happen to any of us, no matter how conscientious we are... and Collier was maybe the most conscientious of us all."

Polishing the star of Bethlehem

Bethlehem, N.Y., police officials greet a smiling Deputy Commissioner John W. Hertridge (l.) of the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services as he presents them with a formal certificate of accreditation for their agency. The Bethlehem Police Department last month became the 30th agency accredited under the New York State Law Enforcement Accreditation Program, which recently completed its first full year of operation. On hand for the ceremony were (l. to r.): Hertridge, Police Chief Paul Currie, Lieut Fred Holligan, and Dennis McCarty, the Bethlehem P.D.'s accreditation program director.

(Photo: Albany Times-Union/Roberta Smith.)



You take the high road, I'll take the low road:

New technologies make their presence felt

Spinoffs from the computer revolution, satellite technology, and Defense Department scientific projects are—or soon will be—available to the police in

BURDEN'S BEAT

By Ordway P. Burden

their never-ending pursuit of bad guys. But some of them raise constitutional questions that may take years to settle.

Take, for instance, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs). They are small, pilotless aircraft capable of hovering for an hour or more with high-resolution cameras, infrared detectors that can "see" in the dark, and perhaps even devices that can "smell" chemicals from drug production. UAVs already exist and may soon appear over some cities.

But will the evidence they provide hold up in court? Suppose a UAV hovering a few hundred feet up detects a marijuana patch in a backyard and sends photos to its police controllers on the ground. Can they get a warrant, arrest the property owner, and get a conviction? It's at least doubtful. In 1986 the Supreme Court ruled in favor

of the police in Santa Clara, Calif., after they conducted a warrantless aerial surveillance at 1,000 feet of a marijuana grower's property and then got a warrant to make the arrest on the ground. But in a 1987 case involving a helicopter surveillance at 408 feet by the Sheriff's Department in La Mesa, Calif., the High Court ruled that the aerial search violated the grower's privacy rights and threw out the conviction. Would warrantless UAV surveillance be legal at 1,000 feet but not at 400?

At least one law enforcement agency has already tested UAVs. It's the U.S. Border Patrol, which has photographed illegal aliens and drug couriers via UAVs on the Texas-Mexico border. The smallest of the units has a nine-foot wingspan and weighs nine pounds. It costs \$20,000, so only the largest police agencies are likely to try them.

Such high-tech surveillance is, of course, perfectly legal if the police secure a warrant targeting specific individuals and places. That was the case when the Federal Bureau of Investigation used a high-tech version of the age-old telephone tap to get convictions in a money-laundering case. The new type

of tap utilized computer technology to record every phone conversation a suspect has by making a numerical pattern of his voice and recording it every time it appears in the switching system. All told, the FBI has recorded more than 15,000 phone calls in that case.

There has been a quantum leap in the technology of surveillance cameras as well. Now in use are pinhole-size lenses operated by remote control that can be attached anywhere—even on a telephone. Is Big Brother watching and listening?

High-tech has come to stolen-car recovery in several states. If a car owner wants to shell out about \$600, he or she can have a small radio device hidden in the car. The device can be activated by a radio signal from participating police agencies and sends its own signal by which the car's precise location can be pinpointed. The pioneer company for the technology, LoJack Corp. of Braintree, Mass., claims a recovery rate of 97 percent for stolen cars equipped with the device. It won't be long before this type of tracking system will be international. Using satellites operated by the

Defense Department, police would be able to track cars (and boats, planes, even lone hikers) all over the world.

Low technology evidently has a place in combating auto thefts, too. In New York City, more than 52,000 cars have two shield-shaped yellow decals in their rear windows. The decals tell police that the car is normally not driven between 1 and 5 A.M., when most cars are stolen. The owners have signed forms permitting the police to stop their cars in the early morning hours and question the driver. It works. Studies have shown that cars carrying the decals are 33 times less likely to be stolen than those without them. The decal program is now being instituted elsewhere in New York State and throughout the country.

In another low-tech development in law enforcement, the trend toward more firepower for police officers is continuing. Upwards of 40 percent of the nation's law enforcement agencies have adopted the 9-mm semiautomatic as the weapon of choice, according to one gun supplier. The trend away from the old .38-caliber or .357-Magnum revolvers, which began three or four years

ago, appears to be accelerating as the police try to counter the high-power assault weapons increasingly used by criminals. The Los Angeles and Washington police departments are shifting to the 9-millimeter, and the Chicago police may also be toting semi-autos in another year or two. New York continues to resist the trend on grounds that a six-shot revolver provides all the firepower needed in most gun battles, which usually are over after three or four shots. Thus, the 9-millimeter, with a clip holding 15 to 19 rounds, only makes it more likely that innocent bystanders might be hit in a flurry of bullets.

Still, many officers feel safer with the 9-millimeter, and that fact cannot be dismissed as irrelevant in the debate over police weaponry.

(Ordway P. Burden is president of the Law Enforcement Assistance Foundation and chairman of the National Law Enforcement Council. He welcomes correspondence to his office at 24 Wyndham Court, Nanuet, NY 10954-3845. Seymour F. Malkin, executive director of LEAF, assisted in the preparation of this article.)

Bus-stop protest art riles San Diego police

San Diego police and police union officials say they don't like the fact that some bus-stop benches around the city have been emblazoned with artworks protesting the deadly-force policy of the Police Department, but they deny that they were behind the disfigurement of the signs, a pair of which were found on Halloween to have been spray-painted with slogans described as "pro-police."

The bench signs feature the outlines of seven human bodies silhouetted in black against a blood-red background, and within each figure is a target, similar to those at police firing ranges. Each target contains either a trowel, a baseball bat or a garden stake, others contain a pair of upraised human hands, and another has a question mark. The

words, "America's Finest?" appear above the figures. Artist Deborah Small, who helped design the campaign, said the artworks were a response to the 23 people who have been shot, nine of them fatally, by San Diego police since the beginning of this year. Among those killed were men wielding a baseball bat, a trowel and a garden stake. Another man was unarmed.

Two of the 25 bus benches that display the protest art—one of them located just steps away from San Diego police headquarters—were defaced by vandals who sprayed what Small called "pro-police" sentiments on them. One now carries the names of two officers killed in the line of duty and replicas of two police badges. The other, located in the same block as police headquarters

on 14th Street and Broadway, bears a graffiti in large white letters that reads, "Kops are OK." After the words, "America's Finest?," someone spray-painted two exclamation marks, the Los Angeles Times reported.

While police and union officials say they dislike the ads, no one is claiming responsibility for the vandalism. "Is it defacing? It probably could be. It probably could be vandalism. I don't know," said Harry Eastus of the 1,750-member San Diego Police Officers Association.

NEA Dollars at Work

Ronald Newman, the association's president, said he didn't like the fact that part of the funding for the artworks—about \$3,600—came from Federal

funds made available by the National Endowment for the Arts, which has been at the center of a bitter controversy because detractors claim its funds have been used to support art that some consider obscene.

"I don't like the fact that it's our tax dollars, too, and it's going to criticize us," said Newman. "I've talked to a number of officers about it, and the opinions run pretty varied. Some think it's just another unwarranted shot at people who have a very tough job, and others think it's all pretty comical. Most don't care about it."

Small countered Newman's arguments, telling the Times that taxpayer money is also used to "support a Police Department with no accountability." She added that a picture of the benches

hanging on a police station bulletin board was reportedly defaced. Someone had drawn artists' pallets inside the targets that appear on the silhouettes. The "reprehensible" act shows that "anyone who criticizes police in our free society may end up themselves as potential targets," she said.

Police Chief Boh Burgreen reportedly hates the ads and considers them a "cheap shot," but he said he would "go to war" to protect the rights to free expression.

Newman added that the ads, designed by what he called "a bunch of wackos," may actually bring more public support for the police. "I think, by and large, the community is fed up with this kind of protest, this abuse against police," he said.

Police see red over Chevy seat belts

Continued from Page 1

Nov. 14 to purchase manual-type seatbelts like those in earlier GM models, which were attached to the door posts, not the door frame. "We're making that conversion in our entire 1990 fleet," said Stephen McCausland, a spokesman for the Maine Department of Public Safety.

"We had troopers complaining that because they were not anchored in the seat, in some cases their heads hit the roof when they were going over humps, and they also were sliding when they were going around curves," added McCausland. The sliding occurs because the seat belt only cinches tightly when the vehicle comes into a "very severe, sudden stop, which usually is the end result of an accident," noted Girardin.

Girardin said that since Swint's death, scores of law enforcement agencies have contacted him with concerns about the seat-belt system and many have pointed out yet another defect. Because the seat belt is mounted on the door frame, the belt laps over part of the window, blocking the driver's peripheral view and increasing the blind spot. "You take an officer who looks to his immediate left and that seat is almost all the way back, he's going to be staring right into the belt buckle," noted Girardin.

Chronicle of Defects

While law enforcement concern about the GM-installed seat-belt system is a relatively recent development, the Center for Auto Safety has been compiling evidence of the alleged defects of the system — defects it says have resulted in several deaths and numerous injuries since the seat belt design was introduced in 1987. A spokesman for NHTSA, Ben Langer, told LEN that the agency, which is

charged with establishing safety and manufacturing standards for U.S. automakers, is still reviewing the center's petition for a safety review of the system. It was the NHTSA that drafted safety requirements for passive-restraint seat-belt systems in 1989.

While NHTSA has 120 days to review the petition, the center has not yet received a response, said Russell Shew, a spokesman for CAS. But since the petition was filed, CAS has documented four more deaths, including Swint's — deaths in which CAS contends that defects in the seat-belt system played a role. "In a case like Officer Swint's," Shew told LEN, "we're convinced that if that car had had conventional lap-shoulder belts, that he would have probably escaped, with at most, minor injuries."

GM Points to Compliance

Despite the uproar over the seat-belt system's failure to provide adequate safeguards to drivers and passengers, officials at GM, whose Chevrolet Division sells more vehicles to law enforcement agencies than any other manufacturer, stand by the integrity of the seat-belt system. GM spokesman Jack Dinan said that the seat belts "fully comply" with the Federal Government's passive-restraint requirements.

"We feel that the GM three-point automatic belt system provides excellent protection for a wide range of occupant sizes and crash conditions," Dinan told LEN. "Unfortunately, no restraint system can guarantee immunity from injury under all circumstances which may develop in the broad spectrum of traffic accident possibilities."

Dinan said that he was aware of Swint's death and others cited by CAS, but added that factors that determine whether an accident ends in a fatality are often beyond the control of auto-

makers. "In some of those instances, the severity of the accident was so great that no matter what the restraint system was, the victim would have been seriously injured or killed. . . . There are some severe accidents that are not survivable in any kind of car sold in this country. . . . That's an immutable fact and there's not much you can do to address those concerns," he said.

Drivers can best protect themselves by wearing their safety belts and keeping their doors locked, Dinan added.

Do-It-Yourself Modification

Other law enforcement agencies contacted by LEN, unconvinced by the assurances of GM, have decided not to wait for action on the Federal level and have elected to augment the seat-belt systems themselves. Neither GM nor its dealers are permitted to alter the mechanisms because such alterations could bring them out of compliance with Federal standards, leaving the automaker and its dealers open to liability claims. But most sources interviewed by LEN saw nothing wrong with adding an extra manually operated lap belt to the affected cruisers, and most pointed to the death of Jim Swint as a key reason for doing so.

"I questioned it when [the report on Swint's death] came in because I could see if the door did come open in an accident, where you may be normally ejected, you would not be held in the seat. So that is a major concern to us. The other thing is side visibility. I did not like the side visibility at all," said Martha Griffin, a service technician for the Yolo County, Calif., Sheriff's Department, 20 miles northwest of

Sacramento.

Griffin expressed surprise that no action has yet been taken to correct what she sees as life-threatening defects. "We are quite concerned," she said. "We're supposed to have all of these safeguards built in and they're not working for us."

Officials in Greenwood Village, Colo., a Denver suburb, decided to augment the belt system with a non-retractable, manually operated lap belt in six GM cars owned by the city, including some driven by police. "We had concerned police officers talking about it," said fleet manager Shawn Khankan, referring to Swint's death. "And of course, my main concern is to satisfy the Police Department and correct whatever they're worried about."

Bernard Arnoldi, a fleet manager and driving instructor for the Prince William County, Va., Police Department, said that while he has not yet ordered any alterations in the seat-belt system, officials there are studying the alleged defects and are preparing a report about them. Problems they have cited, in addition to those previously mentioned, include officers getting caught on the seat belt hanging over the top of the door frame when they must exit the vehicle quickly. Arnoldi added that shorter officers often find that the belt runs down "almost across [their] face or collarbone, and it's annoying."

Cecil Gunter, the department's safety administrator, added that the agency may place an ad in the Washington Post and other local newspapers, calling on GM to voluntarily retrofit the affected vehicle models to rectify the alleged inadequacies of the system.

Concern about Liability

Not all law enforcement agencies are convinced that changes in the seat-belt systems are necessary — and may indeed open up the agencies to liability claims. First Lieut. Curtis L. Vandenburg of the Michigan Highway Patrol's Policy Development and Evaluation Section told LEN that "no system is 100-percent foolproof."

The Michigan Highway Patrol, which has between 200 and 250 GM cars outfitted with the passive-restraint seat-belt system, has not augmented the seat-belt systems of the vehicles. "We don't feel like we're any more expert than the NHTSA, who have not done anything in the way of a recall," said Vandenburg. "No one has gotten to the point of saying this is an unsafe system." Agencies that decide to augment the system run the risk of liability because their changes may take the vehicle out of compliance with Federal standards, he warned.

"I know of agencies who have taken the initiative of augmenting the belts. However, if by doing so, you are encouraging the use of that seat-system as opposed to what was designed by the manufacturer and approved by NHTSA, I think you're on very thin ice as an agency," he warned.

GM's Dinan said the company is so concerned about car owners and police agencies taking steps to correct the perceived failings of the seat-belt system that it is preparing a bulletin addressing the issue. "We're running into a lot of inquiries and a lot of homemade repair kits that probably could be dangerous," he said.

Columbus gun law sends criminals shopping in other markets for arms

Continued from Page 3

The Dispatch reported that 12 people who had applied for permits had significant criminal records or outstanding arrest warrants.

Asked whether police have noted a decrease in crimes committed with firearms as a result of the ordinance, Deputy Chief James L. Rutter told LEN: "No. In fact, they're probably up. We're showing an increase in aggravated assaults and armed robberies. Significantly, our murder rate has dropped, but crimes of violence overall are heading up."

Police statistics show that 976 armed robberies were committed by armed criminals through September 1990, compared to 836 during the same nine-month period in 1989. Assaults with guns increased from 546 in the first nine months of 1989 to 653 through September 1990. Overall, crimes in

which guns were used increased 26 percent during the first nine months of 1990 over the same period in 1989. And through September, 53 people had been killed with guns — six more than during the same period in 1989.

While the Dispatch noted that about 40 Columbus gun dealers had gone out of business since the law took effect, Rutter said that criminals seeking firearms can easily purchase them on the black market or outside Columbus, where fewer gun restrictions exist. But Rutter said that most police officers believe enacting the ordinance "was a step in the right direction."

"It's going to be a long time before enough steps are taken, as far as I'm concerned, where you're going to see a significant reduction in the use of firearms as it relates to committing crimes. There are 254 million people in the United States, and there are 80 [mil-

lion] to 90 million handguns out there. It's going to be a long, long time before we can eradicate handguns from our society — if we ever do that. You can pass all the laws in the world, but until we get rid of the handguns, they're still going to be out there being used."

Rutter noted that Ohio statutes already tack on a mandatory three-year prison term to the sentence of any person convicted of committing a crime using a handgun. "As I've said, the use of handguns is up. So is that a deterrent? Apparently not to a number of people out there," he said.

Rutter said he doesn't feel the ordinance has had a great effect on assault weapons. "If we've seized a dozen assault weapons since that law's been passed, that's probably on the high side. We haven't run into that many assault weapons, as other police departments have."

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Unwitting casualties of traffic radar use

By Gary Poynter

(Second of two parts.)

Trooper Arnold Sudbrink of the Wisconsin Highway Patrol developed eye cancer after years of exposure to the microwave radiation and electromagnetic field generated by the traffic radar unit that was mounted inside his patrol car directly behind his head. Sudbrink's was by no means an isolated case, however.

The significant statistical fact about eye cancer is that it is nearly non-existent, but some studies show an increase in incidence for people exposed to electromagnetic fields.

Skin, Brain, Lymph Cancers

In Ohio, Sgt. Wayne Vessels, now retired, used the same type of radar unit as Sudbrink, with the antenna mounted behind his head. He developed a malignant skin cancer beneath his right ear. Eventually the cancer spread and his eye was removed along with a portion of his face. In a recent conversation with Vessels, he related that his cancer had spread into his brain and he had a tumor removed in 1988.

An officer for the National Park police, stationed in California, was assigned to the traffic division for the national parks in the San Francisco area, and he too used a radar device that hung on the patrol car window behind his head. After several years he developed a melanoma skin cancer on the back of his neck. After it was removed he was transferred back to New York State. Another melanoma developed, and it too was removed, along with several lymph glands. Currently he is

undergoing treatment for his cancers, with some success. His application for a "Performance of Duty" disability retirement is still pending.

In California, Eric Bendure, a police officer for the past 12 years, has been a steady user of traffic radar. The type of radar unit he used, which is similar to those used to check the speed of baseball pitches, is a Kustom-8 manufactured by Kustom Electronics. In early 1989, Officer Bendure was diagnosed as having lymphoma, which

The government was indeed asked. An inquiry made to the U.S. Commerce Department's Law Enforcement Standards Laboratory produced this reply: "Of interest to police traffic radar users is the suggested power density of 5 milliwatts per square centimeter over any six-minute period of exposure for the traffic radar frequency bands." The reply went on to refer to a 1981 report on field strength of traffic radar devices and stated: "It should be noted that it was not the purpose of this particular

cratic Republic (East Germany), the limit was 10 microwatts per square centimeter (a microwatt is one one-hundredth of a watt, 1x10⁻⁶ power.) This exposure standard is 1000 times more stringent than the current ANSI standard. Many of the radar units produced today and used by police officers in the United States would be banned from use in some European countries.

A Doctor's Warning

The issue of potential hazards from

appendix (three in one apartment), and psychological disorders.

The Government dismissed its responsibility to the embassy employees after health problems arose, by ignoring any connection between medical difficulties and exposure to low-level microwaves. The Government never acknowledged the link between the Soviets' intentional microwave bombardment of the embassy and the strange health problems of the employees. In fact, the Government went to great lengths to avoid any connection between embassy residents in Moscow and the microwave beam.

The microwaves beamed at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow differ in frequency and power density when compared to traffic radar. The frequency was lower and the power density was somewhat higher. A true comparison is impossible because the environment of the embassy and that of the patrol vehicle are so radically different. Furthermore, the officer is in a near-field exposure in the patrol car, which allows the officer to be exposed to the electromagnetic field from the traffic radar unit itself along with his exposure to the microwaves from the antenna.

Patrol Car "Hot Spots"

The interior of the patrol vehicle equipped with a traffic radar unit also contributes to the creation of "hot spots." The microwave signal from a traffic radar unit bounces around the interior of the vehicle, and where the signals meet they can cause a hot spot where the power density is higher than that actually produced by the radar unit itself at peak power. It is true that on occasion the signals will meet and cancel each other out, leaving a net zero density. The problem lies in the invisibility of the hot spots and the fact that these areas of high power density constantly move around inside the vehicle.

Traffic radar is a true help in providing a technological deterrent that can slow down motorists and thereby make the nation's highways safer. There is no challenging the effectiveness of traffic radar in speed enforcement. It is a 20th-century marvel that produces both safety and local revenue. But at what cost? Many people feel traffic radar poses a real threat to the operating officer's health. Too many officers have developed too many cancers and other health problems that can possibly be related to exposure to the microwaves and electromagnetic fields produced by traffic radar.

The manufacturers of these devices have been asked to respond to the recent EPA classification of microwaves as a Class C carcinogen. They have been asked to come forward with their own research that can prove that these devices are completely safe for the officer. For whatever reason, they have chosen not to respond.

The Job's Invisible Danger

Police officers, upon graduation from training academy, take an oath of office to protect the constitutions of the United States and our respective states, and to uphold the laws we are empowered to enforce. We accept the danger that comes hand-in-hand with law enforcement. When we leave our homes and go on duty, it is with the realization that we may never come home to our families again. We accept that danger

Continued on Page 10

"Using radar speed detectors inside the cab is extremely dangerous. You should be disturbed by contrary advice given you."

began in his right thigh. In training, Officer Bendure was instructed to leave the antenna turned on for a quick speed clock. When Officer Bendure was not clocking speeders, he would rest the radar unit on his right leg. He too became an unsuspecting member of a great human experiment.

"Trust Us: They're Safe"

In May 1989, all of the domestic radar manufacturers were contacted by this writer and asked to provide information on the testing of their equipment with regard to health effects for the user. Of the seven manufacturers contacted, only two replied. The essence of their replies was that their units were user-safe, and "if you don't believe us, just ask the government."

report to determine what levels of electromagnetic fields constitute a health hazard, as that issue is better left to those organizations and committees established to interpret the biological effects of electromagnetic radiation and to set exposure limits."

When the Government was asked what that "six-minute" period of exposure meant, no reply was given.

The organization primarily responsible for setting exposure limits is the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). The current exposure limit allowed by ANSI for traffic radar frequencies is far above the exposure limit in some European countries. For example, in Bulgaria the occupational limit is 0.1 milliwatts per square centimeter. In the former German Demo-

traffic radar units was presented to Dr. Milton Zaret of Scarsdale, N.Y., a specialist in radiation-related injuries, who said, "The practice of using radar speed detectors inside the cab is extremely dangerous. You should be disturbed by the contrary advice apparently given you."

In the late 1960's, Dr. Zaret was hired by the Federal Government to determine the potential health risk to Americans living at the U.S. Embassy compound in Moscow. During that period, and for some years, the Soviets aimed microwave beams at the embassy and its inhabitants. The health problems encountered by the residents of the embassy included leukemia, breast cancer, brain tumors, chromosomal breaks, blood disorders, burst

For more electrifying reading...

A considerable volume of literature exists on the effects of microwave radiation and electromagnetic fields on living organisms. Readers seeking further information on this subject may wish to consult some of the books, articles, studies and government reports in the following list compiled by the author.

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La. targets its pot crop

Louisiana's program to rid the state of marijuana — an effort that utilizes National Guard troops in search-and-destroy missions, as well as a tip line that offers rewards to callers whose information yields arrests or seizures of the drug — is so successful that a State Police official said he expects the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration to increase the amount of funds available next year to carry out the seven-year-old program.

So far this year, about 40,000 marijuana plants have been destroyed under the program, said State Police Sgt. George Walker, who coordinates the program with DEA officials assigned to Louisiana.

Crucial to the success of the program is a three-month-old marijuana tipster line that allows callers to report information about marijuana growers and their crops. Since September, about 175 people have phoned 1-800-535-3344 with tips, and officials have paid out nearly \$500 in rewards to those whose information led to busts.

"What we wanted to do was to get the public involved and give us more eyes and ears out there," said Walker,

who noted that a shortage of State Police manpower has hurt the state's anti-drug efforts. "We thought that by offering a cash award we could get more help."

More surprising to officials is that many of the tipsters called not in the hope of cashing in on the reward offer, but out of their sense of duty as "concerned citizens."

"As far as the money is concerned, what we've found is that the majority of the people do not want to be paid. They're just concerned citizens. They're concerned about their kids and their future — not wanting them to get into drugs — and they don't want any part of the reward." Some callers have turned in cannabis-growing neighbors, and in one case, a woman turned in her pot-dealing brother-in-law after he tried to recruit her husband into the home-grown business. All callers receive anonymity, Walker said.

While some of the tips do not pan out — Walker said some plants that raise callers' suspicions are not marijuana, but are checked out by investigators anyway — the calls often aid drug investigators by providing them with

much-needed intelligence. "The lifeblood of an investigative unit is intelligence information. While we may not find marijuana, we have just loads and loads of information — intelligence — that we can go back to. The violator may have already harvested his plants, but at least we have a name to go back to later."

Authorities scrutinize each case resulting from the phoned-in tips separately and on its own merits, said Walker, so rewards are made depending on the volume of plants or other drugs that are confiscated and whether arrests or property seizures occur. "They can get anywhere from \$100 on up," said Walker, "but we try to pay at least \$100 to start off with. If there's an arrest, that's an even better case, so we feel we'll pay more."

The tip line is just one part of the DEA-funded program that is coordinated by the State Police, who are often called upon by local law enforcement agencies to aid in drug investigations and eradication programs. The National Guard has been involved for the past two years, and have flown 50 missions searching for plots of marijuana this year. "They're there for us... and we wouldn't be able to do as much without them" since the State Police has only two helicopters that are "usually tied up" most of the time, said Walker. Much-needed aerial intelligence is also supplied by members of the Civil Air Patrol, a civilian aviation group, that has provided authorities with their services.

The DEA gave \$53,500 to the program in 1990 — the highest amount yet received by Louisiana. And Walker said he expects the state to receive even more funding in 1991 because grants are made depending on the success of eradication efforts. "That means more money that we can pay out in rewards," he noted.

Milwaukee presses anti-gun measures

Continued from Page 1

added that an increased police presence would "help our staffs stabilize the situation in our buildings" and allay the safety fears of both staff and students.

The worsening situation in Milwaukee, a city that has already recorded a record-breaking 156 homicides this year, has prompted Wisconsin Gov. Tommy G. Thompson to call for a special session of the Legislature to discuss anti-crime measures.

"There are some serious pressing needs in Milwaukee," he said. "The situation is intolerable."

Among the proposals that may be examined are the enactment of a mandatory one-year jail term for anyone caught carrying a gun in Milwaukee, and the establishment of two new "gun courts," similar to the drug courts set up last year that have allowed most drug cases to be adjudicated within 90 days, said Patrick Curley, the city's legislative lobbyist. [See LEN, Oct. 15, 1990.]

"We also want to bring Wisconsin statutes in line with the recently Federal law that penalizes crimes committed with guns near schools," Curley told LEN. Such statutes would allow for the establishment of "gun-free school zones" and violators would face increased penalties upon conviction.

Meanwhile, Milwaukee police continue their efforts against the proliferation of firearms. An intensified public-awareness campaign will tout the existence of a gun hotline set up in September and jointly operated by the Police Department and the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Department, which allows residents to phone in tips to police on firearms violators. [See LEN, Oct. 31, 1990.] The campaign is needed because the initial surge of calls to the hotline has slowed to a trickle, said Sgt. Joe Hoeller. "There's great expectations

and hope" that the hotline can help police curb firearms offenses, Hoeller added.

In addition, police are "maintaining our very stringent and very strict enforcement" of all existing firearms laws and ordinances, said Capt. Dean J. Collins, commander of the department's research and development bureau. "We have consistently had a policy of strict firearms enforcement in the city of Milwaukee, which is continuing," Collins said. "It's always been a part of our very being for many, many years, and we've got thousands upon thousands of firearms in our property division to show for it."

Dayton judge rejects claim of reverse bias

Continued from Page 3

of the eligibility list, this Court is obligated to follow the relevant case law and statutes that are pertinent to the legal and equitable concepts involved in this case."

FOP president Thomas Bennett told LEN that the union's complaint was part of a pending suit the two officers have against the City of Dayton. "We're saying that if the officers had been black, they would have been promoted. There were several promotions in the last three or four months. The city even created new positions to promote minorities. But when it came time to give these two people promotions, they abolished those positions and said they were having financial problems," said Bennett.

Repeated attempts by LEN to reach officials of Dayton's Law Department for comment were unsuccessful.

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Parting the blue veil of 'Police Mystique'

The Police Mystique.
By Anthony V. Bouza.
New York, N.Y.: Plenum
Publishing Co., 1990.

By William F. McCarthy

Anthony V. Bouza, three times a Chief of Police, has produced a credible glimpse of life inside the world of police in his new book, "The Police Mystique." This glimpse is delivered through the use of a "word-association technique" that provides insider opinion about a variety of subjects that affect the criminal justice system. The author's perception of what is and what ought to be, presented in the searching style of a police philosopher-king, is evident throughout.

Bouza believes that "the over-class sets the tone and establishes the moral climate. . . . A nation full of zest and vigor, growing under values that emphasize 'us' rather than 'me,' altruism over hedonism, sacrifice over pleasure, and service over self, will provide for a much safer society than the one we have today, which is fast sinking into dissolution in the pursuit of happiness." What is needed, Bouza argues, is enlightened leadership, "a muse of fire that would touch the public conscience. . . and awaken the nation to the danger of neglecting the fateful problems of its cities." This is soci-

ety as it ought to be.

In the author's view, policing is at a crossroads. "The criminal justice system is in shambles," he opines, "because of the rising tide of crime and violence, fueled by drugs and guns, and because of the police departments' ever-increasing ability to produce masses of arrests. Imbalances have been created as resources continue to be thrown at the police without a systemic view of the effects on the other players." This, unfortunately, is what society is.

Bouza addresses, in characteristic no-holds-barred fashion, the knotty standoff between the chartered responsibilities of police officers, which he says are "tough to discharge [yet] nonetheless unequivocal and direct," and the unstated, often unspecific, even hypocritical expectations of a society that insists that police control "them" — the blacks, ghetto residents, homeless, poor, and "all others who evoke a sense of fear or unease." The laws to facilitate such control aren't there, Bouza says. The facilities to which "they" might be taken do not exist. The "offenses" of the group are not crimes, but they are offensive to the "over-class."

"The police are the ultimate repositories of society's guilty secrets," says Bouza. "They are there to keep order. This means making unpleasantness invisible. The underclass must be kept in its place or the chief will lose his or her job."

The key ingredients in the development of a competent chief of police, Bouza stresses throughout his book, are a liberal-arts education, varied police experience, the ability to communicate both within and outside the agency, and an administrative decision-making standard based on what is best for the community (or, as he puts it, the notion that "the good of the people is the chief law"). The first and most important decision a police chief must make, Bouza writes, "is whether he is going to serve the people or throw himself into bed with the union. The most unfortunate omen, on the appointment of a police chief, is that the police union praise him or, heaven forbid, endorse his appointment."

Bouza offers the radical suggestion that police chiefs "might well strengthen their agencies' operations by eschewing the offers of more cops while insisting that the resources be spent for ancillary purposes as detox centers, mental-health care facilities, and shelters. Such selfless advocacy would carry enormous weight." Police chiefs are appointed to serve, not to please, Bouza maintains, and "although they must work hard to educate the public on the issues by speaking out, they must also move forward with the reforms."

Amid his advocacy of selflessness and reform, Bouza advocates a strong disciplinary management style, thereby evoking Robespierre's belief that "virtue without terror is powerless." A

careful examination of any successful organization, he writes, "will reveal that its employees are motivated to produce by fears of dismissal, anxiety over loss of status, the desire to avoid failure, the need to escape the boss's wrath, and a lot of other negative factors modern management tomes don't consider worth including in the managerial 'age of positivism.'"

Bouza insists that the battle against crime, drugs and violence in this country is being lost, and contends that there are many reasons why. "High among them," he says, "is our love of action and contempt for thought. Another is our willingness to embrace popular solutions to complex problems. Our politicians pander to these instincts both unconsciously and, to some extent, unconsciously." In Bouza's estimation, "precious little discussion, thought or analysis has been devoted to crime, whereas the action waxes hot."

Bouza's writing provides a certain display of his grasp of classical literature and offers a philosophical hopefulness that is easy to accept intellectually but, unfortunately, is difficult to implement realistically. He fails to provide guidance for large-city chiefs on how to identify who "the people" are, or who is the community that he should serve, given the complex arrangement of competing pressure groups in today's urban societies. And what should this enlightened "urban general" do when "the community" doesn't want what

the chief of police has decided is in their best interest? Bouza argues that mayors and other government officials of our urban centers are ill-equipped to select their police chiefs because they are inappropriately influenced by their own political motives or agendas. It appears that Bouza would like to disregard the democratic political process and establish in its place some form of "philosopher-king fascist state."

One is left to wonder whether Bouza, if he were mayor, would hire such an iconoclastic chief of police and grant him or her politically free operations. The ideal chief developed by Bouza, however ideal, would most probably be unemployed.

"The Police Mystique" can be highly recommended as a book that provides a unique perspective about the world of police and many arguable points for discussion. Bouza has distinguished himself once again as one of the most articulate and literate individuals to be produced by the world of police. Regrettably, there have not been many to choose from.

(William F. McCarthy served in the New York City Police Department for 21 years, retiring at the rank of detective lieutenant. He is currently Associate Director of Training for the Criminal Justice Center, John Jay College of Criminal Justice.)

Tutoring for blacks may get Denver axe

Continued from Page 3

viding additional information [about the tests] to one particular group," said Ed Gietl, executive director of the Denver Civil Service Commission. A Police Department source said the existence of the tutoring session "caused a lot of flack around here" but refused to comment further. Repeated attempts by LEN to get comment from officials of the Denver Police Protective Association were unsuccessful.

"The degree of reaction [to the tutoring session] was not anticipated, and that, coupled with the lack of real significant improvement... would indicate we would not do it again," said Gietl.

The session was held "in order to augment the affirmative action program and to tie it in with the recruiting program that we currently have," Gietl explained. The commission held an initial orientation session open to all individuals, "irrespective of race," prior to offering a session tailored toward black applicants. But Gietl denied that blacks who attended the tutoring session received an edge over other applicants.

"The distinction here is that the black applicants, in addition to the general orientation, were invited to a more specialized orientation session. The information given both groups was essentially the same. Both orientations gave the applicants information as to how to do well in taking the written

test. . . . The sessions designed for the black candidates were more of a workshop format in that the test consultant went through the study guide that had been provided to all applicants," Gietl noted. Participants in the black groups worked in teams to review the study guide, while participants in the general orientation did not, he added.

"Anyone who came to the specialized sessions were of course invited in. No one was turned away. In fact, we had the media there for all to see," he said.

The Police Department is trying to increase the number of blacks on the 1,331-officer force. Blacks now comprise only 6 percent of the Police Department, while 77 percent of the officers are white. The rest are Asian, Hispanic or other.

"We thought this would further assist the department in securing these numbers," said Gietl. But the sessions did not provide "significant" improvement in the levels of blacks who passed the exam, he added.

In view of the controversy the sessions evoked, Gietl said that "in all likelihood" the commission would not offer tutoring classes tailored to minority groups before the next police exam, scheduled for June 30. Employee associations "have indicated that perhaps they would be best suited to provide individual specialized tutoring for their respective members," Gietl said.

Dallas minority cops urge:

Reform hiring process

Continued from Page 3

Worth area by early 1991.

Diaz said that the department is reviewing its recruiting budget with the aim of targeting cities or areas of the United States "that have at least a 33-percent minority representation, instead of going to areas where there aren't that many minorities." Locally, the department has already undertaken an ongoing advertising campaign aimed at blacks and Hispanics, Diaz added.

Diaz characterized the initiatives as "short-term [proposals] that would hopefully have long-range effects."

James Allen, president of the Texas Peace Officers' Association, said that while the Police Department's programs

are good, more needs to be done once applicants are admitted to the five-step hiring process. The association has recommended that the department review the process because a failure in one of the five areas — psychological examination, polygraph test, agility test, background investigation, and an oral interview — disqualifies the individual from becoming a police officer.

"We're saying that these should only count as partial credit — not as a total — toward qualifying or disqualifying you," Allen told LEN.

Allen added that minority candidates routinely spend 30 minutes to an hour appearing before the three-member applicant interview board, while

white candidates spend an average of 15 minutes. The association believes that the time spent before the board should be the same for all applicants, and has proposed that the interviews be taped to ensure their fairness. The board's racial makeup should reflect that of the applicant pool, Allen added.

"We are going to give them an opportunity to try to implement the programs, but if not, we'll present them before the [City] Council," Allen said.

Assistant City Manager A.C. Gonzalez told LEN that the department's stance on gays and lesbians has not changed because state law prohibits sexual acts between members of the same sex.

Confidentiality rules thwart effort to deny a gun sale in California

Continued from Page 3

I didn't have any proof that he was a mental patient. What more could I do?" Weaver told the AP.

Before the Ruger was handed over to Dashti, Weaver partially disabled the weapon's safety. Dashti returned it, and Weaver faked a return to the manufacturer ostensibly to get it repaired, then returned it to Dashti when the Justice Department declined to block the sale.

Details of the sale were revealed after the San Francisco Chronicle ob-

tained a Berkeley police file on the case under a state freedom of information law.

"We checked everything we could check and that's all we could do. It happens all the time," said Drake, who noted that the Dashti case had parallels to that of Patrick Purdy, the drifter who opened fire on a Stockton, Calif., schoolyard in January 1989, killing several children before taking his own life.

"[Purdy] was declared suicidal and homicidal, someone who shouldn't be

released to society. We were never told that information. The gun [Purdy used] was released to him after the 15-day waiting period. We had no way of knowing," said Drake.

Drake expressed hope that the changes will prevent future violence by individuals like Dashti and Purdy. "You've got to have the legal authority to [deny gun sales]. That's the principle here. Our legislators ought to pass laws to give us that authority, which in this case, hopefully, they've done."

Faculty Position. The Department of Criminal Justice at Temple University is accepting applications for faculty positions to begin September 1991.

Candidates should have a doctorate or other terminal degree in criminal justice or a related field. All research specialties will be considered. Applications from female and minority candidates are strongly encouraged.

Send complete application, including vita, three letters of reference, and research reprints or preprints, before Jan. 2, 1991. Address all materials to: Dr. Dorothy Kagehiro, Criminal Justice Department, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA 19122. (215) 787-1643. AA/EOE.

Police Officers. Oakland, Calif., is seeking candidates for appointment as police officers.

New police officers are classified as trainees and are compensated at \$2,690 per month until successful completion of the police academy. Salary for officers then increases to \$3,258-\$3,928 per month, include 9 percent city-paid retirement benefits.

For more information, call: (415) 273-3338.

State-Certified Police Officers. The City of Syracuse, N.Y., is seeking Hispanic/Latino New York Certified Police Officers who are presently employed as such, for lateral-entry transfer.

The salary for Syracuse police officer ranges from \$20,890 to \$31,787 depending upon years of service. The Syracuse Police Department has more

than 450 sworn personnel and provides urban policing for a city of 165,000.

Syracuse, located in Central New York, offers its municipal employees first-rate schools, health-care facilities, performing arts centers, and spectacular outdoor recreation areas.

Fringe benefits provided Syracuse police officers include: comprehensive health care, dental plan, retirement, workers compensation, life insurance, and disability benefits. Also, longevity service pay, deferred compensation plan, and flexible benefits program.

Qualified applicants should contact the Syracuse Police Department's Personnel Division, 511 South State Street, Syracuse, NY 13202. (315) 442-5290.

Undercover Investigators. PLE, a division of Business Risks International, is seeking professionals to work as undercover drug investigators. The position requires dedicated, self-reliant individuals who are capable of working with minimal supervision.

Positions are available throughout the United States. Travel and relocation are required. Previous law enforcement experience, or equivalent education and experience, is preferred.

Income varies based on assignment and location. Minimum salary: \$28,800, plus health, dental and life insurance. Excellent potential for advancement.

To apply, send resume to: PLE, A Division of Business Risks International, 3401 Park Center Dr., Suite 345, Dayton, OH 45414.

Police Officer. The Prince George's

County, Md., Police Department is conducting continuous recruitment for police officer vacancies. The department seeks applicants demonstrating good character, sound judgment, open-mindedness, and interest in public service. Applicants must be United States citizens at least 21 years old at time of appointment, with a high school diploma or G.E.D., and must have vision not worse than 20/100, correctable to 20/20, with no color blindness. Applicants must possess or be able to obtain a valid driver's license, and must pass a written exam and be in good physical and mental health, as determined by a comprehensive exam. Entry level salary is \$24,404.

Address inquiries to: Prince George's County Police Department, Recruiting Section, 425 Brightseat Road, Landover, MD (800) 446-8790.

Highway Patrol Officers. The California Highway Patrol conducts testing on a quarterly basis for state traffic officer positions.

Applicants must be United States citizens 20-31 years of age, with a high school diploma or G.E.D., and possess a California driver's license upon acceptance into training academy; vision must be no less than 20/40 uncorrected, correctable to 20/20, with no color blindness; applicants may not have previous felony convictions. Selection process will include: written exam, physical agility test, interview, medical exam, and comprehensive background investigation. Salary is \$2,410 per month during 22-week in-residence training academy, and \$2,800-\$3,500 per month after graduation.

Direct inquiries to: California Highway Patrol Recruitment, Golden Gate Division, 1551 Benicia Road, Vallejo, CA 94591. (707) 648-4195.

Dive Into the Deep End of the Applicant Pool:

Whatever the position you're seeking to fill, tap the deepest pool of qualified applicants in law enforcement — the readers of *Law Enforcement News*. For information on job listings, call (212) 237-8442.

Radar emissions: cops' invisible foe

Continued from Page 7

without hesitation — it's part of the job. No questions asked, we just do what has to be done. However, when we took that oath, no one came forward and asked us to submit our bodies to invisible and life-threatening forces produced by a traffic radar unit.

Police officers have never been given any information about the hazard of exposure to traffic radar. Training in the use of radar as a speed-enforcement tool does not include so much as one word about safe operation. Some radar manufacturers go so far as to suggest unsafe operations by instructing the officer to place himself in the path of the microwave beam in order to clock the speed of a vehicle coming up from the rear of the officer. This is accomplished by using a radar unit that has hardware configured so that the antenna is placed on the dashboard of the patrol vehicle and is then turned around and aimed out the back window of the car. In doing so, the officer places himself in a hazardous position — in the line of fire, so to speak.

Proceeding Cautiously — If At All

A professor of electrical engineering at Virginia Military Institute said in a letter to the author: "Though I am not by nature an alarmist on such matters, and though I am less than willing to accept superficial evidence of possible adverse effects of any environmental concern, it is my opinion that there is sufficient evidence that microwaves at sufficiently high power densities or long-duration exposure could be harmful to those persons exposed to such waves. There are many questions as yet unanswered as to the frequencies involved, the tolerable levels of exposure, and whether the effects are thermal or electrical or both. Until these questions are answered with at least reasonable definitive data, it is my judgment that police radar and similar microwave sources should be operated with great care, if at all. As an absolute minimum, it would be my recommen-

dation that police traffic radar antennas be operated external to the vehicles in which radar is operated and that all operators be apprised of the eye hazards involved. Given further data, it may well be that I would support even more stringent restrictions on radar use."

Police officers are trained about the hazards of four weapons. We are trained to handle tactical situations and domestic arguments. After the training, we had the information to make informed decisions about how to handle our vocational problems. However, police officers were never given enough information about radar. All of the officers who have been exposed to traffic radar for the last 30 years were members of a great experiment — human experimentation without informed consent. Had police officers been apprised of the possible hazards of traffic radars, it is doubtful many would have volunteered for the experiment. One member of the experimental group was Arnold Sudbrink of the Wisconsin Highway Patrol. He was 55 years old when he was forced into a medical retirement. He died of cancer on Sept. 17, 1990 — a trooper to the end.

(Gary P. Poyner has been a trooper with the Ohio State Highway Patrol since 1980, and currently works in traffic enforcement. Prior to that, he worked for 10 years in the life and casualty insurance industry. The halder of a master's degree in criminal justice from Xavier University, his thesis on the relationship between rotating work schedules and police stress was used by a fact-finder in 1986 in awarding Ohio troopers a permanent shift schedule. In April, he prepared a report, titled "Traffic Radar: Human Experimentation Without Consent," at the request of the FOP/Ohio Labor Council. The report's recommendation that traffic radar antennas be placed outside police vehicles and in front of the officer's position was presented to the Superintendent of the Highway Patrol but never implemented.)

Police approach to serial rapes stirs Okla. City

Continued from Page 3

white women, it would have been a different story."

Luper told LEN that the Police Department and the media should have warned citizens about the rapist sooner, thereby enabling potential victims to take extra precautions. "You cannot protect the public unless the public is aware of what's going on," she added.

"I believe that if the announcement had been made sooner, other women would not have been raped," Luper said. But she added that she while disagrees with the reasons given by police officials for the delay in disclosure, she feels assured that police are doing what they can to apprehend the suspect.

"I'm not sure what too many of the victims could have done to try to protect themselves," said Captain Carlton, given the suspect's propensity for breaking into secure residences in the middle of the night.

The rapist has not struck again since Oct. 29, about five days before police revealed that their probe was focusing on a serial offender. The media disclo-

sure may have "offset the suspect in time. He had begun to set a fairly regular pattern of attacking every 12th or 14th day," said Carlton.

"We're waiting for him to surface again and set another pattern again. In many respects, we feel like we're back to square one, and because of the media disclosure, I think we'll probably end up having more victims than perhaps we might have had," he said. "I'm not sure that [citizens] are best protected by an immediate media disclosure."

The disclosure came after two women were attacked in one week, and after forensics experts said that at least eight of the rapes were connected because evidence found inside several victims' residences matched. The rapist stalks his victims, knows their habits, and breaks into their homes by prying open doors or windows, usually between the hours of 3 and 6 A.M. The suspect, a black man, 5 feet, 10 inches tall, and weighing between 160 and 190 pounds, hides his face with a ski mask. His victims have been single and between the ages of 19 and 42, police said.

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Upcoming Events

JANUARY 1991

4-5. **Advocacy In Action: The Future Is Now.** Presented by the National Victim Center. To be held in Scottsdale, Ariz. Fee: \$25 (NVC members); \$35 (non-members).

7-9. **Street Survival '91.** Presented by Calibre Press. To be held in Portland, Ore. Fee: \$149 (all three days); \$125 (first two days only); \$85 (third day only).

7-11. **Advanced Accident Reconstruction with the Use of Microcomputers.** Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. To be held in Jacksonville, Fla. Fee: \$595.

7-11. **Tactical Techniques for Drug Enforcement.** Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. Fee: \$475.

7-11. **Investigation of Computer Crime.** Presented by SEARCH Group Inc. To be held in Sacramento, Calif.

7-18. **At-Scene Traffic Accident/Traffic Homicide Investigation.** Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. To be held in Orlando, Fla. Fee: \$575.

7-18. **Line Supervision.** Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. To be held in St. Augustine, Fla. Fee: \$575.

7-18. **Traffic Accident Reconstruction.** Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. To be held in Phoenix. Fee: \$595.

7-18. **Crime Prevention Technology & Programming.** Presented by the National Crime Prevention Institute. To be held in Louisville, Ky. Fee: \$615.

7-Feb. 15. **Certificate Program In Delinquency Control.** Presented by the Delinquency Control Institute. To be held in Los Angeles. Fee: \$2,500.

7-March 15. **School of Police Staff & Command.** Presented by the Traffic Institute. To be held in Evanston, Ill. Fee: \$2,000.

7-March 22. **Command & Management School.** Presented by the Southwestern Law Enforcement Institute. To be held in Dallas. Fee: \$950 (SLEI members); \$1,500 (non-members).

8-11. **Tactical Team Operations Management.** Presented by the Institute of Public Service. To be held in Gainesville, Ga. Fee: \$295.

8-12. **Fourth International Training Seminar of the American Society of Law Enforcement Trainers.** To be held in West Palm Beach, Fla. Fee: \$235 (ASLET members); \$285 (non-members).

9-11. **Practical Homicide Investigation.** Presented by IPAC Training. To be held in Alexandria, Va. Fee: \$350.

9-11. **Gypsies & Other Travelling Groups.**

Presented by the Florida Crime Prevention Training Institute. To be held in Orlando. Fee: \$175.

10. **Stress In Law Enforcement.** Presented by Seaford 911 Center for Law Enforcement. To be held in Washington, D.C. No fee.

14-15. **Investigative Technology.** Presented by Richard W. Kobetz & Associates. To be held in New York. Fee: \$375.

14-15. **Terrorist Tactics & Negotiation.** Presented by the Traffic Institute. Fee: \$175.

14-18. **Residential Security.** Presented by the Florida Crime Prevention Training Institute. To be held in Cocoa Beach. Fee: \$200.

14-18. **Polygraph Techniques In Child Sexual Abuse Investigations.** Presented by the Department of Defense Polygraph Institute. To be held in Fort McClellan, Ala.

14-18. **Narcotic Identification & Investigation.** Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. To be held in Jacksonville, Fla. Fee: \$395.

14-18. **Police Applicant Background Investigation.** Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. Fee: \$395.

14-18. **Automated Crime Analysis.** Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. Fee: \$475.

14-18. **Sects, Cults & Deviant Movements.** Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. To be held in Miami. Fee: \$395.

14-18. **Crime Prevention through Environmental Design.** Presented by the National Crime Prevention Institute. Fee: \$365.

15-19. **Traffic Accident Records & Analysis.** Presented by the Traffic Institute. Fee: \$500.

16-17. **Corporate Aircraft Security.** Presented by Richard W. Kobetz & Associates. To be held in Orlando, Fla. Fee: \$375.

16-18. **DUI Standardized Field Sobriety Testing.** Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. To be held in Jacksonville, Fla. Fee: \$295.

18-19. **Physical Security.** Presented by Richard W. Kobetz & Associates. To be held in Orlando, Fla. Fee: \$375.

21-22. **Executive/VIP Protection.** Presented by Richard W. Kobetz & Associates. To be held in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Fee: \$375.

21-24. **Comprehensive Staff Inspections Training.** Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. Fee: \$350.

21-25. **Drug Unit Commanders' Seminar.** Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. Fee: \$395.

21-25. **Introductory TEAM-UP with a Database Management System.** Presented

by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. Fee: \$575.

21-Feb. 1. **Supervising a Selective Traffic Law Enforcement Program.** Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. Fee: \$575.

21-Feb. 1. **At-Scene Traffic Accident/Traffic Homicide Investigation.** Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. Fee: \$575.

21-Feb. 1. **Supervision of Police Personnel.** Presented by the Traffic Institute. Fee: \$600.

22-24. **The Reid Technique of Interviewing & Interrogation.** Presented by John E. Reid & Associates. To be held in Atlanta. Fee: \$495.

22-24. **The Reid Technique of Interviewing & Interrogation.** Presented by John E. Reid & Associates. To be held in Detroit. Fee: \$495.

23-25. **Yacht & Maritime Security.** Presented by Richard W. Kobetz & Associates. To be held in Miami. Fee: \$375.

23-26. **Personal Protection.** Presented by the Institute of Public Service. Fee: \$65.

28-30. **Street Survival '91.** Presented by Calibre Press. To be held in Memphis, Tenn. Fee: \$149 (all three days); \$125 (first two days only); \$85 (third day only).

28-30. **The Reid Technique of Interviewing & Interrogation.** Presented by John E. Reid & Associates. To be held in Miami. Fee: \$495.

28-30. **The Reid Technique of Interviewing & Interrogation.** Presented by John E. Reid & Associates. To be held in New York. Fee: \$495.

28-Feb. 1. **Retail Security.** Presented by the National Crime Prevention Institute. Fee: \$365.

28-Feb. 1. **Tactical Team Operations I.** Presented by the Institute of Public Service. Fee: \$500.

28-Feb. 1. **Homicide Investigation.** Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. Fee: \$395.

28-Feb. 1. **Investigation of Motorcycle Accidents.** Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. Fee: \$395.

28-Feb. 1. **Photography In Traffic Accident Investigation.** Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. To be held in Tallahassee, Fla. Fee: \$450.

28-Feb. 1. **Video Production Workshop I.** Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. To be held in Jacksonville, Fla. Fee: \$450.

28-Feb. 1. **Psycho-physiological Fundamentals In the Detection of Deception.** Presented by the Department of Defense Polygraph Institute.

28-Feb. 1. **Fundamentals of Courtroom Testimony for Polygraph Examiners.** Presented by the Department of Defense Polygraph Institute.

28-Feb. 15. **Command Training Program.** Presented by the New England Institute of Law Enforcement Management. To be held in Wellesley, Mass.

31-Feb. 1. **The Reid Advanced Technique of Interviewing & Interrogation.** Presented by John E. Reid & Associates. To be held in Miami. Fee: \$345.

FEBRUARY

1. **Responding to Hazardous Materials Incidents.** Presented by the Center for Criminal Justice, Case Western Reserve University. To be held in Cleveland, Ohio. Fee: \$75.

4-7. **The Reid Technique of Interviewing & Interrogation.** Presented by John E. Reid & Associates. To be held in Chicago. Fee: \$550.

4-7. **Police Internal Affairs.** Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. To be held in Phoenix. Fee: \$375.

4-8. **Applied Statistical Analysis for Law Enforcement.** Presented by SEARCH Group Inc. To be held in Sacramento, Calif.

4-8. **Tactical Team Operations II.** Presented by the Institute of Public Service. To be held in Gainesville, Ga. Fee: \$525.

4-8. **Sex Crimes Investigation.** Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. To be held in St. Augustine, Fla. Fee: \$395.

4-8. **Undercover Drug Enforcement Techniques.** Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. To be held in Jacksonville, Fla. Fee: \$495.

4-8. **Research Techniques.** Presented by the Traffic Institute. To be held in Evanston, Ill. Fee: \$450.

4-8. **Managing Police Training.** Presented by the Traffic Institute. Fee: \$450.

4-15. **Advanced Traffic Accident Investigation.** Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. To be held in Jacksonville, Fla. Fee: \$575.

4-22. **Crime Prevention Theory, Practice & Management.** Presented by the National

Crime Prevention Institute. To be held in Louisville, Ky. Fee: \$870.

5-6. **Executive/VIP Protection.** Presented by Richard W. Kobetz & Associates. To be held in New Orleans. Fee: \$375.

5-7. **The Reid Technique of Interviewing & Interrogation.** Presented by John E. Reid & Associates. To be held in Kansas City, Mo. Fee: \$495.

7-8. **Hostage Negotiations.** Presented by Richard W. Kobetz & Associates. To be held in New Orleans. Fee: \$375.

11-13. **Advanced Crime Prevention Skills, Part I.** Presented by the Florida Crime Prevention Training Institute. To be held in Ocala. Fee: \$150.

11-13. **Street Survival '91.** Presented by Calibre Press. To be held in Tulsa, Okla. Fee: \$149 (all three days); \$125 (first two days only); \$85 (third day only).

11-13. **The Reid Technique of Interviewing & Interrogation.** Presented by John E. Reid & Associates. To be held in Baltimore. Fee: \$495.

11-15. **Introductory Team-Up Database Management.** Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. To be held in Jacksonville, Fla. Fee: \$575.

11-15. **Narcotic Identification & Investigation.** Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. To be held in Pensacola, Fla. Fee: \$395.

11-15. **Police Traffic Radar Instructor.** Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. To be held in Jacksonville, Fla. Fee: \$395.

11-15. **Satanic & Deviant Cults.** Presented by the Department of Defense Polygraph Institute. To be held in Fort McClellan, Ala.

11-15. **Defensive Tactics Instructor Course.** Presented by the University of Alabama Law Enforcement Academy. To be held in Tuscaloosa, Ala. Fee: \$410.

11-22. **Advanced Traffic Accident Investigation.** Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. To be held in Franklin, Tenn. Fee: \$575.

11-March 8. **Police Traffic Management.** Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. To be held in Jacksonville, Fla. Fee: \$995.

For further information

American Society of Law Enforcement Trainers, 9611 400th Ave., P.O. Box 1003, Twin Lakes, WI 53181-1003. (414) 279-5700.

Broward Sheriff's Office Organized Crime Centre, P.O. Box 2505, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33303. (305) 492-1810.

Calibre Press, 666 Dundee Rd., Suite 1607, Northbrook, IL 60062-2727. (800) 323-0037.

Center for Criminal Justice, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH 44106 (216) 368-3308.

Criminal Justice Center Police Academy, Sam Houston State University, Box 2296, Huntsville, TX 77341-2296 (409) 294-1669,70.

Delinquency Control Institute, University of Southern California, School of Public Administration, 3601 South Flower St., Los Angeles, CA 90007 (312) 743-2497.

Department of Defense Polygraph Institute, Building 3195, Fort McClellan, AL 36205-5114 (205) 848-3336.

Florida Crime Prevention Training Institute, Office of Crime Prevention & Training, The Capitol, Tallahassee, FL 32399-1050. (904) 487-3712.

Institute of Police Technology & Management, University of North Florida, 4567 St. Johns Bluff Rd. So., Jacksonville, FL 32216. (904) 646-2722.

Institute of Public Service, 601 Broad St., S.E., Gainesville, GA 30501. 1-800-235-4723.

IPAC Training Inc., 1 Woodfield Lake, Suite 139, Schaumburg, IL 60173 (708) 240-2200.

Richard W. Kobetz & Associates Ltd., Arcadia Manor, Rte. 2, Box 3645, Berryville, VA 22611 (703) 955-1128.

National Crime Prevention Institute, Shelby Campus, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY 40292 (502) 588-6987.

National Crime Seminars, P.O. Box 39514, Chicago, IL 60639-0514 (312) 745-4392.

National Victim Center, 307 W 7th St.,

Suite 1001, Fort Worth, TX 76102. (817) 877-3355.

New England Institute of Law Enforcement Management, P.O. Box 57350, Babson Park, MA 02157-0350. (617) 239-7033.

John E. Reid & Associates Inc., 250 South Wacker Dr., Suite 1100, Chicago, IL 60606. (312) 876-1600.

Seaford 911 Center for Law Enforcement, c/o Anita Signorelli, Seaford Center, 7 Seaford Lane, Westhampton Beach, NY 11978 (800) 448-4808.

SEARCH Group Inc., 7311 Greenhaven Dr., Suite 145, Sacramento, CA 95831 (916) 392-2550.

Southwestern Law Enforcement Institute, P.O. Box 830707, Richardson, TX 75083-0707 (214) 690-2370.

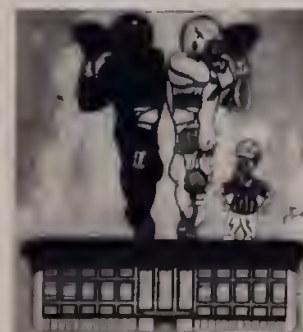
Traffic Institute, 555 Clark St., P.O. Box 1409, Evanston, IL 60204 1-800-323-4011.

University of Alabama Law Enforcement Academy, Box 870388, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0388 (205) 348-5831.

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Law Enforcement News

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A belt for the road?

Door-mounted seat belts used in some General Motors-made police cars are under scrutiny following the death of a Maine officer who was thrown from his cruiser after a crash. **Page 1.**

Also in this issue:

In the second of two installments, an Ohio trooper looks further into mounting evidence that suggests traffic radar may pose an invisible, deadly peril to police officers. **Page 7.**

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